Typhlophiles or Friends of the Blind

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Typhlophiles or Friends of the Blind

By Winifred Holt

Reprinted for the New York Association for the Blind

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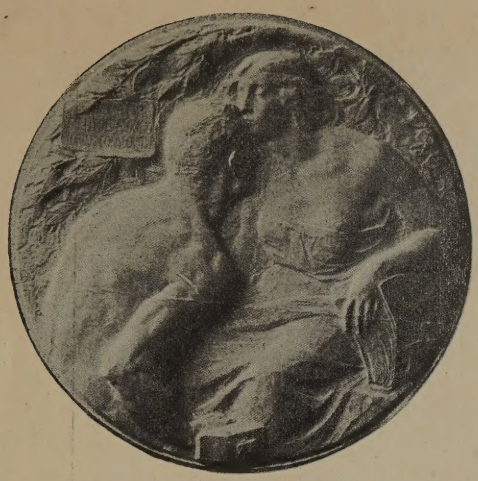


Typhlophiles or Friends of the Blind

Winifred Holt

No one to-day will any longer question that the blind man is capable of carrying on a profession and of gaining honorably, through work, his livelihood. The number of professions which are open to him are, of necessity, limited; nevertheless, under the activity of generous initiative and personal effort, the field is enlarging each day.

This is quoted from the October number of the *Valentin Haüy Magazine*. It voices internationally the thought of an increasing body of educators and typhlophiles or friends of the blind.

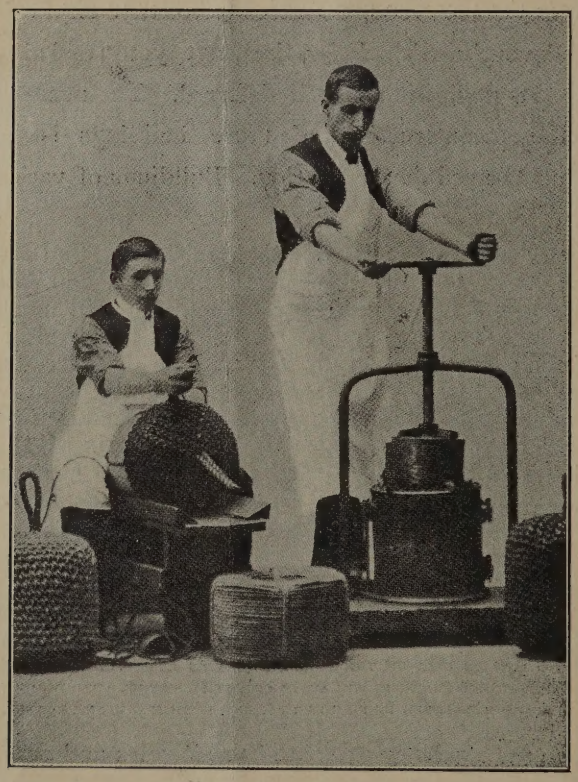
The object of this article is to show what has led to this emancipation of the blind from the narrow field to which in this country, some fifty years ago, they were generally relegated, and how, happily, the field has grown to be considered no longer sufficient for the needs and abilities of the blind. The history of the development of their educational and technical possibilities cannot be compressed into the space allotted to me here; I may touch only briefly a few striking examples of what blind and sighted people have done to open the prison doors which seem to the ignorant to be closed eternally on those who have lost their sight. The words of educators and typhlophiles whose work and years entitle them to universal respect will give weight to conclusions which a five years' study have made me know to be true; therefore, I must be excused for a free use of quotation marks.

The history of distinguished blind people might start with the myths; as we find that in order to drink of the river of wisdom, Wotan had to lose the sight of one eye. The student often wonders if to be wise in the care of the blind it is not necessary to lose both eyes, as those who see with but the mind's eye only, see as a rule most clearly the best methods to educate and employ the blind.

France. We find in the last one hundred and fifty years two distinguished blind women—one in France, the other in Austria, who wrote, composed and did much to help the instruction of the blind of their own countries. One of these, the historian says, "danced most beautifully." But the first world educator was Valentin Haüy, who printed the first book for the blind, and after whom has been named the magazine quoted, together with one of the greatest associations for the blind in the world. Haüy founded the National Instituition for the Blind in Paris in 1784. Here both sexes are given a training to fit them as far as possible, physically, mentally and morally to encounter the world. Those taking the technical course are expected to remain five years, and

The medal appearing at the head of this article was presented to the New York Association for the Blind at the International Exposition held in Milan.

Blind workers in Antwerp.



Cork-fender makers in Glasgow.

Caning chairs in the workshop of the New York Association for the Blind.

Blind girls operating power sewing machines in Glasgow.

music pupils eight years. All pupils are given at least an eight months' musical training and only the absolutely hopeless as far as such training goes are permitted to abandon it. It is considered in any case wise to develop musical ability as far as possible, that it may be a comfort and give the blind when they have left school a means of contributing something to the pleasure of their associates. Manual training for all pupils and household arts for the girls are considered of the greatest importance. In cooperation with this institution there is a school for the backward and feeble minded. In 1849, an employment bureau, *Société de Placement,* was started in connection with the school. All blind people may subscribe to this bureau to obtain its aid, the minimum subscription being five centimes, or one cent per week. The funds are increased by subscriptions from various sources and their use is regulated by a committee which must comprise at least three blind professors, two men and one woman. Since 1843 two hundred blind pupils of the institution have become tuners and salesmen of pianos. Eight organists have been employed in the famous churches of Paris itself, and over fifty-six in cathedrals and churches outside of Paris. A most encouraging result of their education at this school, is that most of the teachers in it are graduates, who have themselves passed the examinations with highest credit, examinations which they must take before they can receive their certificate. This certificate represents great efficiency in the holder; those who have it are sought for as teachers in the county schools of France, and as professors in other countries. I pick up at haphazard, a copy of *The Valentin Haüy,* and again quote from it.

Mlle. Ouvriad, the blind professor of music at the Université of Nancy for twenty years, (who has devoted not only her life but her modest resources for the well-being of her former pupils,) has been given the *Priz Monthyon* by the French Academy.

The Musical Society of L'Echo de la Mina, under the direction of Monsieur Marengo, who is blind, has received three first-class medals at the Exposition at D'Oran.

M. Augustin Barie, a former pupil of the National Institution, has just received the first organ prize at the *Conservatoire.*

Mlles. Babe, Fonty and Thevinin, pupils at the National Institution, have successfully passed the examination for the elementary diploma.

In Spain, Manuel Robles, a blind boy of sixteen, has just received the diploma of bachelor of letters and of science.

The bureau of employment is now remarkably successful, largely because of the untiring work of Mr. Mahout, a blind professor and notable musician.

There are other employment agencies for the blind on the continent. One connected with the Royal Institution at Woluwe, Brussels, is doing especially well, and in England the same movement has borne good fruit for many years.

The *Société Valentin Haüy* is in cooperation with many other activities for the blind. A workshop for the blind, under the *Société des Ateliers des Aveugles,* teaches brush making of various kinds to blind men. They are received from the age of eighteen, but, after forty only when in good health. Most of the men graduate in their trade in eight months, when they are given 150 francs ($30) for tools and 100 francs ($20) worth of crude materials. They may apply to the association and receive materials at cost price during their life. These pupils who have lost their sight after the school age are of all classes of society. They also may receive the help of the employment bureau. The association has a *vestiaire* or wardrobe, where under certain prudent rules, reasonable clothing may be procured by blind persons whom the association considers qualified for such privileges. The blind women who lose their sight after school age are usually given occupations in their homes or go to the Blind Sisters of St. Paul; the blind sisters print the *Louis Braille Review,* issued by the Valentin Haüy Association, and instruct their pupils in various practical house industries, including laundry work, needle work, sewing, etc., from which they may earn a modest wage after leaving this school.

At its central office, the Valentin Haüy Association sells the work of blind men and women, giving them a percentage of the gain. Knives and scissors are made by one blind protege, who lost his sight at the age of three years. They also sell many well-made woollen articles, rugs, etc. The association has admirable Braille libraries of literature and music. The famous invention of the blind Louis Braille was a great improvement on the invention of his teacher, Barbier. Braille, a teacher at the National Institution for the Blind, where he had been educated, and an excellent mathematician, found that six dots sufficed to represent the alphabet in legible form. He died in 1852, without the satisfaction of seeing his alphabet adopted. However, with modifications, it is now in universal use, the so-called New York point being merely a horizontal adaptation of the six points which in Braille are used perpendicularly.

The libraries of the Valentin Haüy are kept entirely by blind librarians, the volumes all labelled in Braille, and Braille catalogues are at the disposal of the readers. Four blind gentlemen connected with the libraries and employed by the association, took with reason, great pride and interest in showing their work. The library supplies four hundred volunteer copyists with the work of putting ink-print books into Braille, thereby increasing its number of volumes at very small expense. It also has a shipping department from which books are sent to blind readers throughout France and other countries.

The two magazines printed by the association, the *Louis Braille Review,* in Braille, and the *Valentin Haüy,* in ink-print, furnish good reading matter on topics of especial interest to the blind.

The activity of other institutions, shops and good works for the blind in Paris and throughout France, seem mostly included in what I have already mentioned. The success of the *Société Valentin Haüy,* however, is due largely to its blind secretary, M. Maurice de la Sizeranne, who has been very properly called "the general secretary for the blind," able-bodied and invalid (valides et invalides) of France. This gentleman, besides being one of the greatest philanthropists of the day, is a distinguished author, whose works have been crowned by the French Academy. He has secured the cooperation of most of the best seeing and blind thinkers in his own country, and elsewhere. On certain hours each week he receives the great and small, and by his personal touch with the needs of the blind, is in the best position to help them.

Austria. Twenty years after Valentin Haüy started his school in Paris, Johann Wilhelm Klein, a graduate who had been at Schiller's school at Carlsruhe, was called to establish the first school for the blind in Austria, at Vienna. Klein printed books after Haüy, and soon started an employment bureau for his graduates. Later, music and weaving became strong points in his institution. Austria now numbers in all twenty-two institutions, including shops and libraries, etc., for the blind.

Germany. Germany has innumerable examples of work in their behalf. Even the small towns have workshops for blind men and women, where caning, brush-making and willow weaving are carried on. One of the most unique of the German departures is the Saxon system, developed in Dresden for the blind, which in modified form has been introduced with beneficial results into some schools for the blind in England and elsewhere. The following, from an article in *The Blind,* an English quarterly magazine to which we shall refer later, gives an idea of this method:

When the director of the institution considers that a pupil is sufficiently master of his trade to be able to support himself, he looks out for some suitable opening for him in his own locality, and unless there are some special reasons why he should not go home, he returns there. If his home surroundings are unsuitable, then some other place is found for him. The director visits the locality where the pupil is to settle, and arranges for some leading person in the district to act as his guardian or foster-parent, so to speak. This is usually the clergyman, doctor, mayor, or some other benevolent practical person of influence. His duties are to advise the blind man in his business whenever necessary, introduce him to customers, keep an interested and watch-

ful eye on him, and to keep the director informed as to his circumstances and conduct. The pupil is also expected to write to the institution at stated times, saying how he is getting on and giving full particulars about himself. The pupil is started with an outfit of tools and materials, or whatever is suitable for his particular business, supplied with materials at cost price as required, and is assisted if necessary when suffering from sickness, or accident, or whenever any extra outlay is needed which is beyond his power to defray. The institution will further assist him by selling the goods which he himself is unable to dispose of. The director visits the former pupil from time to time, and also in case the guardian requires advice or help.

Dr. Armitage wrote in 1886: "The care of the blind pupils throughout the country after learning trades at the institution, is more complete in Germany than in any other country. There, seventy to eighty per cent of the pupils are enabled to maintain themselves by trades learned while at school. Of 177 pupils (112 males and 65 females), sent out during twelve years, 96 per cent are now living, in all parts of the country, as respectable members of society, and with few exceptions receive no assistance save what they derive from the institution. Intellectual and technical training during their stay at the institution has accomplished this. The education of the blind as well as of the seeing is compulsory in Saxony.

Russia. It is interesting to note that Haüy founded a school for the blind in St. Petersburg.

Japan. The briefest review of work done for the blind could hardly fail to note the treatment of them in Japan. Recently it was proposed in the Japanese Parliament that the blind should be the sole people permitted to exercise the profession of massage. The blind in Japan are good musicians and excellent shampooists. The attitude of the public and of the government to their needs is what would be expected in a nation which has recently taught us many lessons in the conduct of peace and war.

Roumania. The movement for the blind in Roumania has recently been taken up with energy and great-heartedness by Queen Carmen Sylva, whose blind secretary, the inventor of a remarkable writing machine, is one of the queen's chief co-workers in the community for the blind which she has started, and which is called "Vatra Luminosa." The September *Blinden Freund,* an admirable magazine published for many years in Hanover for the blind and the typholophiles in Germany, says: "Roumania has six million inhabitants of whom thirty thousand are blind. Of these, 15,000 are married. In one year, 10,000 became blind from tracoma."

Great Britain. In Great Britain, many agencies exist for assisting blind people. London alone has seven workshops, two societies for visiting the blind, and six regular lending libraries for the blind, besides some lending libraries for the blind in the public libraries. It has two homes for the blind and many schools for them, including several schools for day pupils under the London County Council, which also has a school for the blind who are mentally defective.

The schools are good. Perhaps the most remarkable of these is the Royal Normal College for the Blind at Norwood, London, where Dr. F. J. Campbell, LL. D., the blind American, has accomplished such astounding results. Dr. Campbell believes that "blind children have the same claim upon the public for education as seeing children, and that their needs are greater; the nation owes its blind children the opportunities for such a thorough, practical education as will fit them to become useful, happy, self-maintaining citizens."

His pupils are drawn from the intelligent blind, and he does not attempt to educate those who are backward. But I have seen blind children at Norwood who came from the poorest homes and from the poorhouses who soon lost all signs of their pauper origin; many such have become capable, active blind men and women, whose education fitted them to cope with the world.

The accompanying illustration shows the physical methods which Dr. Campbell has employed. His blind pupils competed with sighted athletes at the Crystal Palace and carried off the honors. His blind swimmers were also awarded honors for life-saving drills. Dr. Campbell himself, in climbing Mt. Blanc, gave a most conspicuous proof of

A van used by blind travelers in Birmingham, England.

the blind man's physical strength and courage. His example was followed three years later by three blind professors of the Institution of Paris who climbed other mountains. Dr. Campbell will travel at short notice to any part of the United Kingdom to prove the fitness of one of his pupils to fill some vacant position as organist, chorus master, teacher, etc.

Another work for the blind in London fills no less admirably different needs; Gardner's Trust for the Blind, which under the administration of its progressive secretary, Henry J. Wilson, Esq., lends a helping hand financially to the blind who need and deserve it, and also assists enterprises for their benefit.

The Trust was created by the will of

Vaulting-horse pyramid in Norwood, London. These pupils received a prize in competition with sighted pupils at the Crystal Palace.

the late Henry Gardner, Esq., who left a large sum for the benefit of blind persons resident in England and Wales.

The money was to be used for instructing the poor blind in suitable trades, handicrafts and professions and for providing pensions. The committee has absolute discretion in managing and carrying into effect the provisions of the will. "In distributing the fund the committee desires as far as possible to give such assistance as will call out the exertions of the blind and put them in the way of maintaining themselves, except in the cases of persons who are considered fit subjects for pensions. No person can receive assistance unless the committee is first satisfied that he is a person of good moral character and in real need of help; but no person is disqualified from receiving assistance by reason of his religious opinions."

"Grants by way of pensions are made without restrictions as to age. No assistance is given to street musicians, and the intermarriage of blind persons is viewed with disfavor."

The Trust publishes an admirable magazine, *The Blind,* telling of the current events of particular interest to the blind and to typholophiles. The Trust has granted scholarships to the blind students at Oxford, and generally at least two of their blind pensioners are at work there.

I quote at random from the numbers of *The Blind* before me.

At a meeting of Gardner's Trust held on July 3rd, Herbert E. C. Lewis, formerly a student at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, was elected to a scholarship of the value of £60 a year, tenable at Oxford University. Mr. Lewis enters St. John's College in Oxford University next.

Frederick W. Priest, A. R. C. O., formerly a Gardner scholar at the Birmingham Institute for the Blind, has been appointed organist at St. Patrick's church, Birmingham, and has been warmly welcomed and highly complimented by the vicar.

Melville G. McWilliams, B. A., the first blind student at Sydney University, has passed his final law examination, and on May 7th was admitted to practice as a barrister and was highly congratulated by the State Attorney-General and the Chief Justice.

We congratulate J. J. Plater, who is totally blind, on his election as chairman of the Great District Nursing Society. Last year the nurses paid 5,079 visits to patients.

The examiner appointed by Oxford and a member of the school examination board, stated that several of the students of the admirable college for the higher education of the blind, at Worcester, were above the average, and out of 120 pupils, 25 have graduated at either one or other of the universities, 30 were in holy orders, and the rest engaged in legal, music and other professions.

Mr. Henry Stainsby, with his usual earnest zeal in endeavoring to find new fields of usefulness for the blind, has obtained an appointment for one of his pupils as operator in the telephone exchange of some large works.

Of seven workshops for the blind, we will consider but one, situated at Tottenham Court Road, which is under the direction of the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, under the patronage of the King and Queen of England, for the especial purpose of teaching trades to the adult blind, of giving them employment in the workshops of the association, or at their own homes, of providing them with material, and of insuring a market for the sale of their work. "The men are employed in the following trades: manufacturing of brushes, brooms, baskets, mats, firewood. The women are employed in making brushes and baskets. Pupils must guarantee the weekly payment of 6 s. for basket making, and 4 s. for all other trades taught. As a pupil learns a trade, his weekly payment will be diminished. All the work people find their own board and lodging and go to the shop daily from their own homes. In connection with the association, there is a Samaritan fund, aiding workmen in case of illness. The monotony of the work hours is often relieved by ladies who devote some of their spare time to singing, playing and reading to the workers. For many years the first teacher of brush making was a blind man who was employed by the founder as a carpenter. One hundred and three work people were in the shop or were pensioners in 1905. A dining room is connected with the shop where the workers can cook their meals. There is also a retail and wholesale shop, where the work of the blind people is

sold in connection with articles made by the sighted.

It is encouraging to notice in England the opening of new workshops at Birkenhead, Hanley, Rudderfield, Manchester, Middlebrough, Northampton, North Shields and Wakefield, and extensions at Bradford, Kensington and Wolverhampton. A new workshop in connection with the Western England Institution for the Blind, a new workshop at Bristol, and new premises for the workshop for the blind at Sheffield.

Other English Organizations.

The British and Foreign Blind Association, founded in 1868 by the late Dr. Armitage, has worked untold good for the blind, who owe to it the introduction of the Braille system in reading and writing. The chief objects of this association are to discover the best methods of educating and employing the blind, and to persuade people to adopt these methods; to produce writing frames, books, maps, and other educational apparatus for sale to schools or individuals at the lowest possible price and to collect and diffuse information, and to advise on all subjects relating to the blind. About three thousand separate books, varying in length from one to twelve volumes, have been copied by hand, to meet the requirements of public libraries and individuals. About 700 ladies make gratuitously the first Braille copies of these books; their copies are re-copied by 80 blind scribes, chiefly women and girls, who are paid for their work. Three blind persons are regularly employed in stereotyping books and music. The association publishes several magazines.

The volunteer writers have formed themselves into an auxiliary union, which obtains employment and custom for the blind, and supplies them with instruction and useful information.

Over fourteen Braille magazines are published in Great Britain, and one new magazine, *The Braille Review,* started in January, 1903, in ink type, gives a monthly list of Braille publications and matters of especial interest to the blind. Nearly all the institutions and societies for the blind, and also many public libraries for the sighted, have books printed in types used by the blind.

Moon's Society, situated at Brighton, England, deserves notice. The secretary and treasurer is Miss Moon, the daughter of the late Dr. Moon, who invented the Moon type, which is the only practical type for some blind people whose sense of touch is dulled; the type was arranged in 400 languages and dialects by him. The society was founded 59 years ago by the late Dr. Moon; 675 volumes of embossed type, including the entire Bible, have been printed in English, and a monthly magazine of twenty pages, edited by Dr. R. C. Moon of Philadelphia, is printed in Moon type. Upwards of 256,370 embossed books, etc., have been issued. Dr. Moon was himself blind, and believed that God had given him his blindness as a talent to use in helping those similarly afflicted. The call for Moon books in England and in this country is rapidly increasing.

Fifty years have passed since the first home teacher was engaged by Miss Graham of Totten. This was the prelude to the formation of the Home Teaching Society of London, from which sprang over sixty societies in the provinces, and which led also to the foundation of workshops.

When the blind were regularly sought out and visited, and their needs and capacities for work revealed, it was found that many longed to be restored to the ranks of labor.

The London Home Teaching Society for the Blind employs fourteen blind home teachers and does untold good in bringing cheer and comfort into the lives of the blind. The work for women, which is not as far advanced in our country as that of the men, is doing well in England. The Institute for the Blind at Birmingham gives a report of satisfactory results. The kindergarten of Birmingham is new and considered a model. It has an excellent school for blind girls and boys, including a piano-tuning and constructing department, and workrooms for blind men and women. Both boys and men are taught cobbling, which the superintendent believes will be a practical industry for those returning to their

own village homes. All the shoes of the institute are mended and made by the blind pupils and workmen there, and soles are put on the ready-made uppers, which are bought.

The women's work at the institute is admirable, including knitting by machines and by hand, sewing machine work, etc. There are three wagons with a sighted driver, and a blind salesman, which tour the country selling the work made by the men and women at the institute. The Birmingham shop has a typewriting and stenography department and salesroom which make an excellent financial showing.

The Glasgow Shop and Institute for the Blind is perhaps the most astonishing of all the large blind industrial enterprises in the kingdom. It cares for the blind from early childhood to old age. Blind women here operate Singer sewing machines, run by electricity. They won a sealed competition with sighted people for supplying bedding to the Cunard steamship line, the award being made not because it was blind work (which fact at the time of the award was not known), nor because it was cheap work, but because it was the best work offered. Many blind carpenters are happily employed here A good spirit pervades this workshop. The men make sieves, cork fenders, brushes, rugs, etc. The institute has a brass band among the workers, for which it supplies an experienced leader. In connection with the institute, are two stores which make a good profit.

The Edinboro Institute is a wonderful place. Its printing department issues excellent magazines for the blind.

Ireland and the Colonies.

Work is done for the blind in Ireland, and even the colonials have become typhlophiles, and Australia, New Zealand, etc., have enterprises for the blind. The sighted and the blind have co-operated, with wisdom and energy, to give the blind throughout the empire every chance to make their lives useful and happy. Not only has their effort been successfully advanced by noble blind educators or typhlophiles —but by men who in positions of responsibility have dignified high offices of government like Fawcett, M. P., the blind English post master general—who was said to always have an eye on everything, but by renowned men who like Milton and Sanderson the distinguished professor at Oxford have shown in other fields of the sighted the capabilities of the blind.

The American Movement.

This European experience in the field of economic equipment of the blind should be widely known in America. It emphasizes needs which should be met in this country. It shows how reasonable and practicable are the plans now being undertaken toward the industrial education of the blind.

Fifty years after the foundation of the Institution for the Blind by Valentin Haüy, Dr. Friedlander of Philadelphia and Dr. Howe of Boston started the first American schools. Dr. Howe, in educating the deaf, dumb and blind Laura Bridgman, blazed the way for the present efficient education which is given to-day to those similarly afflicted. The outcome of Dr. Friedlander's work is now the excellent school at Overbrook, Pa., which possesses the most beautiful buildings and grounds perhaps of any institution in this country. I have not the space here to review the development of institutional work in this country. Modern efforts continue the crusade for the prevention of infantile blindness; and the proper education, physical, intellectual and technical, at schools for the blind. The home teaching societies in America are very much inferior to those of England. The movement toward better societies of this nature is rapidly spreading. For some time the legislature of Massachusetts has made an appropriation for home teaching and employs three blind teachers. Rhode Island has two blind teachers, Delaware one, and the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society three. So far, the state of New York has made no appropriation for home teaching, although the New York City Public Library has one teacher giving instruction to the blind in the New York Point and the Moon type.

The blind teacher of the New York Association for the Blind teaching machine sewing.

There are no scholarships for the blind in America, a fact which is regrettable because the capacity of the blind for higher education has, as we have seen, been well shown by blind students who have taken honors at colleges here and abroad.

Neither are the libraries nor magazines for the blind in America comparable in number or otherwise to those abroad. It is, therefore, a cause for congratulation that Mrs. Ziegler's munificent gift of a magazine for the blind has been established and will be printed both in Braille and New York Point.

The following quotation from a congratulatory letter written to Mrs. Ziegler by Helen Keller indicates the value that such a magazine will prove to the sightless:

"The past months have brought such noble work looking to the welfare of the sightless. Philanthropists have begun to seek out the blind who live in enforced idleness, and to open for them a path to usefulness and independence. Already the blind are waking. Their long useless hands are turned to new purposes, re-nerved by the knowledge that there are many occupations in which they can take part. Once convinced of this they will find their fetters less cruel. The new year will give a greater impetus to the work in their behalf, and the new magazine will voice it, and carry far and wide its message of cheer and encouragement."

The opening of the Experiment Station for the Blind in Boston under the Massachusetts association marked the beginning of the adequate recognition in this country of the fact that most blind persons become so after childhood, and that they need and will respond to industrial training which will re-establish them in the community. Here, no less than abroad, it is proved that the blind tuner, musician, organist and music master, can co-operate to great advantage with the sighted workmen, in the piano factory, in sighted classes of pupils and in choirs. In our country we have satisfactory examples of this kind. And abroad the certified graduates of many schools are in demand as piano tuners in factories and for house to house work. It is also proved that some intelligent blind men are capable of carrying on independent business in connection with sighted people. In Connecticut there is a blind man who employs one hundred sighted workers. In New York I know a very successful blind upholsterer who employs sighted labor, and another who employs over 150 workmen. A blind girl is employed as stenographer and typewriter in an office in Buffalo. A blind girl has operated for nearly a year a twenty-stop switch board in a hospital in this city. It is proved that at rug weaving, mop making, chair caning, broom making,

Making brooms in the workshop of the New York Association for the Blind

basket weaving and in a hundred other ways blind persons can become producers and for mental well being, even at times sanity, a healthful occupation such as a manual trade or operating some simple machine is essential.

A National Program. As exemplified by the present efforts, a modern American program for the training of the blind should include the following:

1—Laws to prevent all unnecessary blindness, of which in all countries there is a shocking amount.

2—A thorough kindergarten training for blind children, to teach them as early as possible the use of their hands.

3—Some technical and manual trade to be taught to each blind child who should also have a thorough intellectual training; the course of education to equal in every way the best education given to sighted pupils.

4—Separate schools for the feeble-minded, blind, and special classes for backward blind children.

5—Diplomas to be granted to blind people whenever they have satisfactorily finished their course as piano tuners or teachers.

6—Scholarships for qualified blind students.

7—Shops where the pupil may continue to carry on his trade if unable to do so independently, and where the adult blind may acquire a trade or obtain work.

8—Home teaching associations in every state.

9—A bureau of information in every state.

10—Employment bureaus.

11—Suitable homes for the aged and infirm blind.

12—A trust similar to Gardner's Trust for the Blind, or a state fund to supply needy workmen with the necessary capital, and to grant pensions and other financial assistance.

13—Free circulating libraries for the blind.

14—Reduced carfares for needy blind people and their guides.

In order to promote the foregoing in behalf of the blind, the New York Association for the Blind was organized a year ago. Its work now embraces the prevention of unnecessary blindness; a census bureau where the state census of the blind is being taken for the commission of 1906; an employment bureau; a ticket bureau, to give tickets for musical and dramatic entertainments, to suitable blind persons; home teaching and instruction and the selling of home work; a work shop for blind men; a blind men's club. In recognition of its services the association has just received a gold medal at the International Exposition at Milan, and three other medals for collaborators in its work.

The work of such state associations, and the work of the state blind commissions appointed in the last two or three years in Massachusetts, New York and Maryland, seem to show that the psychic moment has arrived when the blind of this country are at last to have the recognition and care which is their due. And when experiences such as the following will no longer be possible in cities justly noted for their charities.

Miss Keller in *Our Duties to the Blind* tells of a man who lost his sight at the age of thirty-six. Before, he had been a lithographer and was for eight years a foreman. He said that he was determined not to be a "quitter" and that he had tried one and another kind of work and had failed in each. He was asked what he thought he could learn to do? "I do not know" replied the man. "Although intelligent and industrious, this man had struggled wildly in the dark for four years, trying in vain what kind of work he had best apply himself to. Think of it, in four years he had had no one to tell him what to try to do."

A visitor of the New York Association called to see a blind woman. She was informed at her late residence that the woman had killed herself. She faced the question of accepting the city's alms on the island for some time and finally could bear it no longer. Her friend who told the visitor the story ended with this: "Oh! if you had come a few months earlier; if you had told her that she could read and work and be a useful woman, my friend would still be alive."

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